

In the Claims

1-41 (cancelled).

42 (currently amended). A method for attenuating Dengue virus (DV) infection in human cells susceptible to DV infection *in vivo*, said method comprising administering to the cells *in vivo* an effective amount of a vector comprising at least one gene suppressing cassette, wherein said gene suppressing cassette comprises a polynucleotide operably-linked to a promoter sequence, wherein said polynucleotide encodes a short interfering RNA (siRNA) molecule that ~~reduces expression of a target (DV) gene within the cells by RNA interference~~ targets a sequence within the 3' non-coding region of the DV genome that is common to four serotypes of DV, and wherein the polynucleotide sequence is transcribed to produce the siRNA molecule.

43-51 (cancelled).

52 (previously presented). The method of claim 42, wherein said vector comprises a plurality of gene suppressing cassettes.

53 – 55 (cancelled).

56 (currently amended). The method of claim 42, wherein said polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence of ~~SEQ ID NO:3~~ or SEQ ID NO:4.

57 (previously presented). The method of claim 42, wherein the vector is conjugated with chitosan.

58 – 63 (cancelled).

64 (previously presented). The method of claim 42, wherein the vector is a non-viral vector.

65 (previously presented). The method of claim 42, wherein the vector is a viral vector.

66 (previously presented). The method of claim 42, wherein the vector is an adenoviral vector or adeno-associated viral vector.

67 (previously presented). The method of claim 42, wherein the vector is an adeno-associated viral vector.

68 (cancelled).

69 (previously presented). The method of claim 42, wherein the siRNA molecule attenuates DV replication in the cells.

70 -71 (cancelled).

72 (currently amended). A method for inhibiting Dengue virus (DV) infection and DV-induced apoptosis of human dendritic cells *in vivo*, comprising administering to the cells *in vivo* an effective amount of a vector comprising at least one gene suppressing cassette, wherein said gene suppressing cassette comprises a polynucleotide operably-linked to a promoter sequence, wherein said polynucleotide encodes a short interfering RNA (siRNA) molecule that ~~reduces expression of a target Dengue virus gene within the host by RNA interference~~ targets a sequence within the 3' non-coding region of the DV genome that is common to four serotypes of DV, and wherein the polynucleotide sequence is transcribed to produce the siRNA molecule.

73 (previously presented). The method of claim 72, wherein the cells are subsequently exposed to DV, and the siRNA molecule inhibits DV infection and DV-induced apoptosis in the cells.

74 (previously presented). The method of claim 72, wherein the the vector is an adeno-associated viral vector, and the vector does not induce acute inflammation in the dendritic cells.

75 (previously presented). The method of claim 72, wherein the cells are human dendritic cells of the blood.

76 – 77 (cancelled).

78 (currently amended). The method of claim 72, wherein said polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence of ~~SEQ ID NO:3~~ or SEQ ID NO:4.

79 (previously presented). The method of claim 72, wherein the vector is an adeno-associated viral vector.

80 (previously presented). The method of claim 42, wherein the siRNA molecule has a hairpin structure.

81 (previously presented). The method of claim 72, wherein the siRNA molecule has a hairpin structure.

82 (cancelled).

83 (previously presented). The method of claim 72, wherein the vector is conjugated with chitosan or a chitosan derivative.